

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended): A susceptor of an approximately round disk shape, having a concave wafer pocket on a front surface thereof for accommodating a wafer and an abutting section on a rear surface thereof that abuts against a distal end of a susceptor, comprising:

a gas supply channel; and

a gas discharge channel, wherein

said gas supply channel comprises a first aperture passing through from [[a]] the rear surface of the susceptor to the wafer pocket; and a groove formed from a rear-surface-side opening of the first aperture to a peripheral end of the susceptor, the groove being defined at least by an inner end and an outer end, and

the gas discharge channel comprises a second aperture passing through from the rear surface of the susceptor to the wafer pocket,

~~wherein a middle point of the outer end of the groove is located forward to a middle point of the inner end of the groove with respect to a rotating direction of the susceptor~~

wherein the gas supply channel and the gas discharge channel are formed at positions different from a position of the abutting section.

14. (Previously Presented): The susceptor according to claim 13, wherein the groove is curved in a rotating direction of the susceptor, when viewed from the inner end defining the groove.

15. (Previously Presented): The susceptor according to claim 13, wherein a wafer-pocket-side of the first aperture is inwardly defined when viewed from the rear-surface-side opening of the first aperture.

16. (Previously Presented): The susceptor according to claim 13, wherein a cross-sectional shape of the groove narrows from the outer end to the inner end of the groove.

17. (Currently Amended): A susceptor of an approximately round disk shape, having a concave wafer pocket on a front surface thereof for accommodating a wafer and an abutting section on the rear surface thereof that abuts against a distal end of a susceptor arm, comprising:

a gas supply channel which comprises a first aperture passing through from [[a]] the rear surface of the susceptor to the wafer pocket, and a first groove formed from a rear-surface-side opening of the first aperture to a peripheral end of the susceptor, the first groove being defined at least by an inner end and an outer end; and

a gas discharge channel comprising a second aperture passing through from the rear surface of the susceptor to the wafer pocket, and a second groove formed from [[the]] a rear-

surface-side opening of the second aperture to [[a]] the peripheral end of the susceptor, the second groove being defined at least by an inner end and an outer end,

~~wherein a middle point of the outer end of the first groove is located forward to a middle point of the inner end of the first groove with respect to a rotating direction of the susceptor, and~~

~~wherein a middle point of the outer end of the second groove is located backward to a middle point of the inner end of the second groove with respect to a rotating direction of the susceptor~~

wherein the gas supply channel and the gas discharge channel are formed at positions different from a position of the abutting section.

18. (Previously Presented): The susceptor according to claim 17,
wherein the first groove is curved in a rotating direction of the susceptor, when viewed from the inner end defining the first groove, and the second groove is curved in a direction opposite to the rotating direction of the susceptor, when viewed from the inner end defining the second groove.

19. (Previously Presented): The susceptor according to claim 17,
wherein a wafer-pocket-side of the first and second apertures are inwardly defined when viewed from the rear-surface-side openings of the apertures.

20. (Previously Presented): The susceptor according to claim 17,

wherein cross-sectional shape of the fist groove narrows from the outer end to the inner end of the first groove, and

wherein cross-sectional shape of the second groove narrows from the outer end to the inner end of the second groove.